



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021 –5:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

Meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Ed Silva, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie
Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III, Administrative Assistant to the Boards, Highway Superintendent Larned, Library Director Molly Lane
Audience: Rosie Gordon

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 2-0-0)
Selectman Silva was absent from the vote

Announcement of recording devices: one
Noteworthy Announcements (as needed): None

Minutes:

1. Minutes of January 5, 2021 - Covid Group
2. Minutes of January 7, 2021
3. Minutes of January 12, 2021

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Covid-19 Group meeting of January 5, 2021, January 7, 2021 and January 12, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 2-0-0)
Ed Silva- absent

Selectboard Business:

New Business:

1. Request from Franklin Land Trust – Warner Hill Wildlife Corridor Landscape Partnership Grant: Executive Secretary presented the Board with a request from Emily Boss of Franklin Land Trust (FLT) to have Town Counsel review and advise whether to hold the Conservation Restrictions on 2 properties which had mineral mining rights that were held by prior owners and their heirs. The mining rights were not relinquished with the sale of the parcels and that Counsel working for the FLT may not be able to have all the rights released since heirs could

not be located. The main issue is to see whether Rowe would hold the conservation interests on land which have these mineral rights still reserved by a third party. Ms. Boudreau reached out to Charlemont Select Board Member Willis and she replied that Charlemont did not want to use town funds to research or was in favor of removing taxable land from their rolls. It was decided to have Ms. Boss attend a meeting and discuss further before deciding.

2. Discussion of Rowe Camp Sand at the DPW: There was discussion about the policy of allowing parties to obtain sand and salt from the town for private clients as well as the general sand policy for residents. Chair Sokol said he would like to formulate a policy for the taking of sand and salt and asked to have Superintendent attend next meeting to address further.
3. Discussion of Custodian Budget Submission and General Admin Budget: To follow up on the discussion with Finance Committee, since Custodian is under the purview of the Board of Selectmen, there was discussion relating to the request for higher wages. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) wage and salary survey was reviewed to compare area custodian wages. Following discussion, it was decided to discuss the matter with the Custodian and ask whether additional hours were needed and to not increase the hourly wages. Executive Secretary said if the additional time needed related to COVID-19 cleaning that wages could be taken from the CARES ACT grant which was extended through to December 31, 2021 and there were funds remaining.
4. Letter from Citizen Re: Beautification Committee: A letter was reviewed from a citizen who had volunteered to work on the Beautification Committee and had a list of ideas and events. Executive Secretary said that she is continuing to ask for additional volunteers by way of the Goal Post and the website since it needed for people to get involved. Board members asked that Executive Secretary respond to Mrs. Stetson and continue outreach.

Old Business:

1. Wage and Salary Chart Follow-up: Board Members discussed the Wage and Salary Chart that Administrative Assistant McLatchy was working on and felt that it was worth fine tuning and presenting to the Finance Committee in the future when time permits.

Contracts/Warrants:

1. Warrant Review: Review Warrants FY21 W015 and FY21 PW15:

Vice-Chair Semanie reported that the last Warrant FY21 W15 & FY21 PW15 were fine.

Administrative Office Updates:

- Executive Secretary reported the following:
 - Ms. Boudreau said that the FRCOG asked for a survey of Local Technical Assistance Requests be completed by next week.
 - The Treasurer and Accountant continue to work with the Auditor to end 2020 and set up cash books for 2021. The work is expected to be complete in a couple of weeks and reduced in scope from originally thought, due to work of Treasurer and Accountant.

- Ms. Boudreau said she would be attending the FRCOG Advisory Group meeting next Thursday to represent Rowe and that Admin Assistant McLatchy III would take minutes.

Appointment: 6:00p.m. FY22 Budget Hearings w/ Finance Committee

Highway Dept. – Lance Larned, Highway Superintendent:

- The biggest change to the budget was to add \$6,360.00 to Road Surface Maintenance Reclamation to improve roads.
- The Grasshopper program is uncertain at this time for FY22 due to COVID-19 safety.
- \$15,000.00 was appropriated for Roadside Mowing and much less was used so much less needs to be appropriated in the event the Summer Youth does not occur.
- There was discussion about the possibility of some of the Grasshopper youths could work for the Park as they could work more safely at the Park and give a one-time increase of wages to the Park to keep the program to keep youth employed.
- There was discussion about matching the Grasshopper wages with Park wages and speak further with Park Ranger about the plan
- It was agreed to wait to finalize Summer Youth at a later date.
- There was discussion about the cost to maintain the roads and that there needs to be a program to set more funds aside for the purpose as the costs have greatly risen.

Superintendent Larned left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Council on Aging:

- Budget remained the same as prior year in the event that the COVID-19 pandemic preventative measures are relaxed.

Library – Molly Lane, Library Director

- Molly Lane said there were no special projects for the future.
- It is hoped that with vaccinations occurring programs may be able to resume in some form.
- Library of Tools is available, and the Library will promote.
- Book groups, craft groups and some regular programs may start this Summer

General Govt. CIRRP:

- Executive Secretary submitted a Capital Improvement, Repair and Property Plan for the town windows to increase security and repair windows on first floor for \$1375.00. Ms. Boudreau said that would include diagnosis of windows on first floor and some repair to further estimate cost of repair with parts that would have to be ordered. She said she could complete this part of the project using funds from FY21 Maintenance Line for Town Hall. It was decided to go ahead and schedule the work.

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours):

Future Meeting(s):

Following discussion, it was agreed to attend the Tuesday, January 12, 2021 meeting with the Finance Committee at 6:00 p.m. Selectman Silva indicated he would be away for the meetings of the 21st and 28th.

Adjournment:

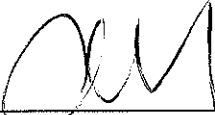
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.
The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

Respectfully Submitted,


Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: FEBRUARY 4, 2021


Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanick, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda January 21, 2021
2. Minutes of January 5, 2021 - Covid Group
3. Minutes of January 7, 2021
4. Minutes of January 12, 2021
5. FY22 Budget Request- DPW
6. FY22 Budget Request- Council on Aging
7. FY22 Budget Request- Library
8. Email from Charlemont Select Board Member Willis
9. Email Response from Emily Boss – Franklin Land Trust
10. Executive Secretary: Research on Mineral Rights and Conservation Restriction
11. Wage & Salary Draft – Administrative Assistant

Mail:

1. Letter from Citizen Re: Beautification Committee